



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,961	04/04/2007	Seong No Yoon	9988.242.00-US	1622
30827	7590	11/16/2009	EXAMINER	
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP			CORMIER, DAVID G	
1900 K STREET, NW				
WASHINGTON, DC 20006			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1792	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/16/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/552,961	YOON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DAVID CORMIER	1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2009.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4,6-8,10,11 and 13-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 8,10,11 and 13-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments/Amendments

1. This Office action is responsive to the amendment filed on August 18, 2009. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 11 have been amended. Claims 5, 9 and 12 have been canceled.
2. The objection to Claim 12 for being in improper dependent form has been withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendments.
3. The rejection of Claims 5-7 and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, has been withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendments.
4. Regarding Claims 1-4, 6 and 7, Applicant's arguments filed August 18, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
5. Applicant argues that Stadelmann does not disclose a hanging sill and a hanging piece that prevent the damper pin from being separated from the cabinet. It is the Examiner's position that Stadelmann does in fact teach the claimed limitations. Stadelmann discloses a washer unit 2 supported by vibration dampers 11. The vibration dampers 11 connect to the washer unit 2 and the main frame 5 at bearings 16 and 22, respectively. Bearing sleeve 26 is used to secure the bottom of vibration damper 11 to bearing 22. Grooves 27 in the bearing sleeve 26 cooperate with the bearing opening 28 to hold the bearing sleeve in place (see Figure 6). It is not the grooved surface which holds the bearing sleeve 26 in place, but the raised portions on the bearing sleeve that define the groove 27. It is the Examiner's position that those

Art Unit: 1792

raised surfaces, which define the grooves, read on the claim language "hanging sill" and "hanging piece," and that these prevent the bearing sleeve from being separated from the cabinet because Applicant has not shown that either phrase imparts any more structure than is shown by Stadelmann.

6. Next, Applicant argues that Stadelmann or Hoffmann, alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest "an elastic member provided within the damper pin." It is the Examiner's position that Hoffmann does teach this. Hoffmann discloses a slotted hollow pivot for connecting relatively movable parts, where the pivot can be inserted in an uncompressed state (col. 2, lines 65-74), then tightened by inserting a material such as a spring steel (col. 3, lines 9-14; spring steel is considered to read on an elastic member). Because Hoffman motivates the use of an elastic member as the tightening element in a pin, it would have been obvious, and predictable, to one of ordinary skill in the art to use other elastic members such as the claimed rubber or spring in the device of Stadelmann. For the above reasons, the rejection of Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 is maintained.

7. Applicant's arguments, see page 3, filed August 18, 2009, with respect to Claims 8, 10, 11 and 13-15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 8, 10, 11 and 13-15 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 8, 10, 11 and 13-15 are allowed.

Art Unit: 1792

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not provide for, or make obvious, a drum type washing machine comprising: a cabinet forming an exterior of the drum type washing machine; a tub provided within the cabinet; a damper having one end connected to the tub and the other end rotatably connected to the cabinet; a damper pin rotatably joining the damper to the cabinet, the damper pin having a slot formed along a lateral side thereof; and a felt provided within the damper pin, wherein the felt is impregnated with a lubricant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

1. Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stadelmann et al. (USPN 5,230,229) in view of Hoffmann (GB 490,718).

2. Regarding Claims 1-4, 6 and 7, Stadelmann discloses a drum type washing machine comprising:

- a. a cabinet forming an exterior of the drum type washing machine (6);
- b. a tub provided within the cabinet (2);
- c. a damper (11) having one end connected to the tub and the other end rotatably connected to the cabinet (Figure 3; col. 3, lines 14-17); and
- d. a damper pin (Figure 6, part 26) having predetermined elasticity (the damper pin inherently has some amount of elasticity) and rotatably joining the

damper to the cabinet (see Figure 3; col. 3, lines 18-27), where the damper pin has a slot along a lateral side of the damper pin (25) ; and

e. the damper pin has a hanging sill provided to one side of the damper pin (Figure 6, the leftmost portion of the damper to the left the left groove, 27) and a hanging piece provided to the other side of the damper pin to prevent the damper pin from being separated (Figure 6, the rightmost portion of the damper to the right of right groove, 27), where the hanging piece is formed as one body with the damper pin (See Figure 6) and has a predetermined elasticity (the hanging piece would inherently have some amount of elasticity).

3. Stadelmann does not expressly disclose that there is an elastic member (rubber or spring) having a predetermined elasticity (predetermined elasticity could mean any amount of elasticity) within the damper pin.

4. Hoffmann discloses a slotted hollow pivot for connecting relatively movable parts, where the pivot can be inserted in an uncompressed state (col. 2, lines 65-74), then tightened by inserting a material such as a spring steel (col. 3, lines 9-14). Figures 3-12 show examples of the slotted, hollow shell of the pivot, and Figures 13-19 show examples of inner tightening elements.

5. Because it is known in the art to have a tightening member inserted into a pin, which connects movable parts, as in Hoffmann, and the results of the modification would be predictable, namely, an effective way of stiffening a pin after it has been inserted into a bore or pivot opening, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have all kind of tightening members, such as

Art Unit: 1792

rubber, springs, etc., inserted into the pin of Stadelmann. The resulting damper pin with a rubber or spring interior would yield the claimed invention.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

7. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID CORMIER whose telephone number is (571) 270-7386. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:30 - 6:00.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571) 272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1792

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1792

/DGC/
David Cormier
11/10/2009